

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 248791

EXDIS, TOVIP 2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(FORD, GERALD R)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NO. 1

1. ARAMCO HAS NEW OIL PROPOSAL FOR SAUDI ARABIA

EMBASSY JIDDA HAS LEARNED THAT ARAMCO'S PARENT COMPANIES HAVE AGREED ON A PROPOSAL TO OFFER SAUDI ARABIA A 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER OF ARAMCO IN THAT COUNTRY. COMPENSATION WOULD COME IN THE FORM OF BONDS OR PREFERRED STOCK, GIVING THE AMERICAN OWNERS OF ARAMCO A REASONABLE PROSPECT OF CONTINUED ACCESS TO SAUDI CRUDE AND NOMINAL INFLUENCE, IF NOT CONTROL, OVER THE DEVELOPMENT AND LEVELS OF PRODUCTION. THE PROPOSAL, WHICH IS AIMED AT REPLACING THE STILLBORN PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, IS LIKELY TO BE SUBMITTED FORMALLY WITHIN WEEKS. (SECRET) JIDDA 5601, 12/19 (EXDIS).

2. FRENCH CONCLUDE OIL DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA

FRANCE HAS CONCLUDED A LONG-TERM OIL PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA WHICH PROVIDES FRANCE WITH 200,000 BPD FOR THREE YEARS WITH OPTIONS FOR MORE AND FOR A LONGER PERIOD. AMBASSADOR AKINS HAS INDICATED TO THE PETROLEUM ADVISOR TO THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE SIZE OF THE
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AGREEMENT IS EXCESSIVE AND THAT THE US WOULD FIND ANY LARGER DEAL WITH FRANCE UNACCEPTABLE. THE ADVISOR URGED US COMPANIES TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA TO TALK ABOUT PACKAGE DEALS. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 5624, 12/20 (EXDIS).

3. PROSECUTION OF ROME/LUFTHANSA HIJACKERS

THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD OUR AMBASSADOR DEC. 20 THAT KUWAIT AND MOROCCO HAVE DECIDED TO TURN THE HIJACKERS OVER TO THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) FOR TRIAL. PROSECUTION IN KUWAIT WAS REJECTED BECAUSE THE CRIMES COMMITTED WITHIN KUWAIT DO NOT JUSTIFY A SUFFICIENTLY SEVERE SENTENCE. THE PLO HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE HARSHTEST POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT IS EXPECTED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT THE HIJACKERS MIGHT EVEN BE SENTENCED TO DEATH. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE KUWAITIS AND OTHER ARABS MIGHT HOLD THE PLO'S FEET TO THE FIRE THIS TIME. (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT 4429, 12/20.

4. FRANCE AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE

EMBASSY PARIS IS CONCERNED THAT MANY OF OUR ALLIES MAY HAVE MISTAKEN FRENCH EFFORTS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF US/USSR DETENTE WITH A REAL FRENCH DESIRE TO INCREASE ITS COOPERATION IN EUROPE'S DEFENSE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT US ACTIONS OF THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE MADE OUR ALLIES UNSURE ABOUT US INTENTIONS AND THAT RECEPTIVITY TO THE FRENCH EFFORTS HAS THEREFORE INCREASED. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE US UNDERTAKE A COMPLETE REVIEW OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO ANSWER INQUIRIES AND TO ASSIST IN FORMING A CONSCIOUS EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY. (SECRET) PARIS 32491, 12/20 (EXDIS). RUSH

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